

you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to reasons beyond my control.

On Monday, September 4, 2007, I was tending to personal matters and thus missed rollcall votes 847, 848, 849. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all votes.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MYRON K. KUNKA

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mr. Myron K. Kunka. Having served his country for 32 years, he retired from the Federal service on September 1, 2007. His record of achievement during this period reflects great credit upon himself and upon the organizations with which he has served.

Mr. Kunka began his Federal career as a budget analyst at Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, PA, on August 1975 after receiving a master's degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh. He has served in successive financial management positions within the Department of Defense. These assignments include: 7th Signal Command, Ft. Ritchie, MD; Headquarters United States Army, Telecommunications Center, The Pentagon; Headquarters Army Material Command, Alexandria, VA; On-Site Inspection Agency Dulles, VA; and Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Mr. Kunka joined the ranks of the Senior Executive Service on November 7, 1999, when he was appointed to serve as the Comptroller, Director of Resource Management, and finally the Associate Director of the Business Enterprise for DTRA.

Mr. Kunka received numerous awards and decorations for his outstanding public service. The significant awards include: the Director's Award for Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity, 1997; On-Site Inspection Agency Exceptional Civilian Service Medal, 1998; the Department of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, 2000; and the Presidential Rank Award—Meritorious Executive, 2003.

As Mr. Kunka brings closure to this chapter of his Federal career as a public servant, he begins a new chapter serving the public as the associate dean of the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Myron K. Kunka on his retirement from Federal service. He epitomizes the dedication and professionalism that makes our Federal Government a model all over the world.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN BOETHING

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend John Boething, who died August 11 at 89 years young.

It would be easier to list what J.B. didn't accomplish in his life than to list what he did. A college student at age 16, J.B. bicycled across Europe and explored South America as part of his master's thesis; was a U.S. Army captain during World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater; wrote a sports column; and was a freelance cartoonist for the New Yorker and other publications.

But it was as one of the founding fathers of the wholesale horticulture industry that J.B. made his public mark. He founded Boething Treeland Farms as a retail operation on 35 acres in Woodland Hills, CA, in 1952, and grew it into one of the largest and most successful wholesale nurseries in California. Today, Boething Treeland Farms grows trees and shrubs on about 800 acres across the State.

Not bad, considering J.B. knew little about the tree business when he started on money he borrowed from his father.

J.B.'s success can be ascribed to him being the epitome of a people person. He had a wonderful sense of humor and, for all his successes, still lived in the house he built in Woodland Hills and added onto as his family grew. Having sought the advice of other nurserymen when starting Boething Treeland Farms, he freely gave advice later to others in the business—including those who started with him and went on to be competitors.

While personable and fair, J.B. also maintained high standards and expected the best from his employees. With his motivation and example, they rarely disappointed.

J.B. also supported the American Red Cross, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Doctors Without Borders, and Pepperdine University. He served on the Board of Directors of Sunset Magazine and for many years sponsored a lecture through the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering J.B. and his contributions to horticulture and to all who knew him, and in offering our condolences to his wife of 54 years, Susan; their daughters, Sally Painter, Haydi Danielson, Cathy Pherson, and Marji Boething; their six grandchildren; and his extended family and wealth of friends.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act.

This legislation provides a balanced, responsible and long-term approach to address-

ing the critical issue of energy security in this country. It provides long-term incentives for renewable energy that will give the solar, wind, and biomass industries the stability they need to increase production capacity. There are also significant incentives for making our Nation and economy more energy efficient.

The bill provides resources to States and localities to help their residents improve the efficiency of their homes, as well as make public investments in energy-efficiency, transportation and research.

The bill works across sectors and technologies, across governmental and private sector lines, and in both residential and commercial settings to reduce our Nation's dependence on fossil fuels. In a word, Mr. Speaker, the approach taken by this bill is comprehensive. I want to highlight two provisions in the bill that I think are particularly important.

First, this legislation will increase the tax credit for alternative refueling property from 30 percent to 50 percent, and extend the credit through 2010. Nearly everyone agrees that biofuels such as E85 are an increasingly important component of our Nation's evolving energy strategy. Real progress has been made in recent years to spur use of alternative transportation fuels, and U.S. automakers have made significant investments to bring flex-fuel vehicles to market. But we need to speed the deployment of E85 pumps. This bill does just that.

Next, this legislation provides incentives for manufacturers to produce washing machines, refrigerators and dishwashers that push the boundaries of energy and water efficiency, and to build them in the United States. Reducing the energy or water usage of a washing machine may seem like a small thing, but over time and across millions of households, these incentives will produce remarkable reductions in energy and water usage, and consumers will save money on their utility bills.

Finally, I think it is unfortunate that so many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are opposing this package because it takes back just a few of the most outrageous tax breaks for the oil and gas industry. Our work in this House is about priorities, and the difference in priorities on this bill could not be more clear. I urge all of my colleagues to support this responsible legislation.

CONGRATULATING MR. EVAN BALOGH

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Mr. Evan Balogh of Morrison, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. His outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young man.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more

than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Mr. Balogh to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Balogh and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ISMAILI GOLDEN JUBILEE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Dallas Shia Imami Nizari Ismaili Muslim Community for reaching a Golden Jubilee landmark on July 11, 2007.

As a prominent community, the Ismailis have contributed largely to the cultural diversity and economic development in Texas. Under the guidance of His Highness the Aga Khan, the Ismailis are represented in the fields of engineering, science, medicine, education, and entrepreneurship.

In 1967, the first international non-profit institution of the Ismailis was established by the Aga Khan in Europe. Since then the Aga Khan Development Network has grown into nine agencies, globally representing the fields of micro finance, education, economic development, health, and cultural preservation.

These agencies have created 300 schools in the world, educating 62,000 students and employing 5,000 staff. It has opened 200 health centers, caring for nearly 2 million and employing nearly 10,000 staff. It has also opened a university in Central Asia, transformed a park in Egypt, and continues to raise funds for the poor through an annual world-wide Partnership Walk.

The Ismailis are devoted to improving the circumstances and opportunities for the poor around the world. The Aga Khan Development Network serves as a catalyst for these endeavors. Their mandates range from education and health to structural design, disaster reduction, development, and renewal of historic cities.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to congratulate the Ismaili Community on their Golden Jubilee. Their efforts towards global humanitarianism make them an invaluable member of the Dallas area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 4, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 694, H.R. 3020, and the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2669 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 847 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 694, the Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act, I would have voted "aye".

Had I been present for rollcall No. 848 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3020, the Microloan Amendments and Modernization Act, I would have voted "aye".

Had I been present for rollcall No. 849 on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye".

**ARMY SERGEANT GARRETT I.
MCLEAD; SOUTH TEXAN LOST IN
IRAQ**

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, since this House last met, another South Texan from the Coastal Bend area has fallen in battle in Iraq, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this life lost in the service of our nation.

Army SGT Garrett I. McLead, 23, from Rockport, Texas, was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, in Hawaii. While many people across the nation were starting school, enjoying vacation, or just taking advantage of the last weeks before Labor Day, Sgt. McLead was killed on August 22, 2007, in a Black Hawk helicopter crash during a night mission 180 miles north of Baghdad, in Multaka, Iraq, near the city of Kirkuk.

Sergeant McLead is survived by his parents, Patrick and Patty, and by the larger family of Aransas Pass and San Patricio County in South Texas.

Madam Speaker, each time we lose a soldier—a member of our American family—we lose a little piece of ourselves. Each time, it is just unbearable. Let me tell you more about this noble patriot who gave the last full measure of devotion to the nation he loved.

Sergeant McLead drew his strength from his faith, and was a natural athlete, excelling in surfing, tennis and soccer while he was in high school. He also played the saxophone in his high school band. He had a winning smile and a talent for life.

He was an adventure seeker, tempered by the national shock of 9–11. The searing pain of the attack moved him from happy-go-lucky teenager to a determined warrior at warp speed. He deferred a dream of modeling or acting when our nation was attacked on 9–11, and the country called all patriots for service in the U.S. military.

Rather than opting for Hollywood, his handsome face was assigned to Afghanistan in service of finding and tracking down the terrorists who attacked the United States. Iraq was soon opened as a second war, and he served the nation in uniform in Iraq as well. He was close to coming home, but his tour was extended.

Everyone in the greater South Texas community will miss him, but nobody will miss him like his family. We mourn with this family; we lift up our broken hearts in gratitude to his family, and we all want to see our soldiers come home from these wars.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Army Sergeant McLead and his service on behalf of the United States, and to offer our thanks and our deepest sympathy to the family of this warrior, who gave the last full measure of devotion to our nation and the United States Army.

**TRIBUTE TO MITRE CORPORATION
IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA**

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, 5 years ago I rose to thank the MITRE Corporation for nearly two decades of outstanding work in Huntsville, Alabama. Today, I proudly rise once again to congratulate its employees on their 25th anniversary in our community.

MITRE operates federally funded research and development centers that provide government agencies with systems engineering, research and development, and information technology support. MITRE first opened its office in Huntsville in 1982 with only one employee, but has steadily grown to 56 employees.

MITRE has provided objective expertise, analysis, and support to the Army's Aviation and Missile Defense Command, the Missile Defense Agency, NASA, and other programs at Redstone Arsenal and throughout North Alabama. MITRE's Huntsville site is the Corporation's primary center of expertise for the Department of Defense's Battle Management Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (BM/C3I) program.

On Monday, August 13, 2007, the employees of MITRE gathered to celebrate their 25th anniversary in North Alabama. I rise today to join in their celebration and wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, yesterday, on September 4, 2007, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district as a result of a mechanical problem which prevented the departure of my scheduled flight from Gulfport, MS. Unfortunately, I missed rollcall votes 847, 848 and 849. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of the rollcall votes.

**RECOGNIZING MAYOR FRANK
ORTIS OF PEMBROKE PINES,
FLORIDA**

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, public service is among the most noble and demanding of professions; and excellence in the delivery of public service helps